

TRAINING FOR SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE
IN CANTHO REGION AND HAU GIANG PROVINCE:
RESULTS AND EXPERIENCES OF A HUNGARIAN ODA PROJECT

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Abstract

The remarkable growth of aquaculture development in Vietnam, both in terms of quantity and intensity level has negative effects on the natural environment. It has been widely recognised now, that there is a need for improved systems, technologies and management in aquaculture production to meet the criteria of sustainability. There is also a need for improved governance, which also includes the self-regulation by producers and producers associations. In the frame of the Hungarian International Development Assistance Program (Hungarian acronym NEFE), the Hungarian government provided 55,000 USD support for a project called “Training for the development of environment friendly aquaculture in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam”. The project was carried out in the collaboration between Akvapark Association, Szarvas and Center for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Cantho University between 2005-2007. Akvapark Association is a Hungarian NGO, involving SMEs in aquaculture and the Research Institute for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Irrigation (HAKI), that has been a traditional partner of Cantho University. The training in the frame of the project included training of extension officers and farmers from the target area of the project Cantho City and Hau Giang province. Extension officers were trained by Hungarian experts in Vietnam, and a study tour in Hungary was also organised for two extension leaders. Farmers were trained by the staff of Cantho University and leading extension officers using training materials (written and audio-visual) that were elaborated in the frame of the project. Special training courses were organised for women farmers. There was a great interest in the training program, which is indicated well that the number of participants was much higher than the projected, 50 extension officers instead of 16, and 475 farmers (including 105 women farmers) instead of 250. During the closing workshop of the project the continuation and the expansion of the geographic scope of the training program was proposed in the frame of a follow up project, which would include Dong Thap, An Giang and Vinh Long provinces, where aquaculture plays important role in rural livelihood.